

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Twenty-Seven Hundred Murders in a Year.

From the Independent.

The following paragraph is floating in the papers, like a frightful corpse on a gay and busy stream:—

Senator Roberts, of Texas, paints a horrible picture of affairs in that State. He says that twenty-seven hundred freedmen have been murdered within a year, and the persecution of the unfortunate blacks is so fearful that they are praying for a restoration of slavery as a protection against the murderous hate of the reconstructed white rebels.

Who has paused as he read this item to reflect on the state of things which it suggests?

Texas had a population at the last census of 2,000,000; Connecticut of 450,000. Supposing, then, instead of Senator Roberts, of Texas, it read that Senator Dixon, of Connecticut, says that twenty-seven hundred Irish laborers have been murdered in his State within a year.

We could then faintly conceive of the horror of horrors that overwhelmed that State. This comparison is not entirely apposite, for Senator Dixon's course shows that he would hardly make an outcry against such an abomination as this that maketh desolate; as this is but the legitimate fruit of the policy he advocates.

The Texan Senator is as much in advance of the Connecticut as his State is behind the latter's. On this same ratio Massachusetts should report three times that number murdered in a single year, or over eight thousand of her poor, peaceful, and industrious citizens. New York should report nine times, or twenty-seven thousand persons murdered! What horror would freeze every soul at such an announcement! Well might the people, thus driven as sheep to the slaughter, pray for bondage as a protection against such merciless massacre.

Think, too, of the harmless conduct of these slaughtered ones. It is another massacre of the innocents. They open not their mouths. They give no provocation. They were taken thither by their masters, who turn upon them and butcher them. They are faithful, affectionate, laborious, attentive to all the impious demands of the dominant and tyrannizing race, doing all in their power to ward off the terrible fate that hangs over them.

Think, too, of the horrors who order or allow this massacre! These white men and women surpass the ancient murderer in hate and cruelty. He ordered but one execution, and that of babes, and for a day. These race in devilish malice against babe and mother, especially against the fathers and husbands and brothers by whom their scanty pittance of food is secured. They pursue them not in a single city and for a single day, but from town to town, from plantation to plantation, day and night, year after year.

Who can tell the agonies that have rent those victims' hearts; the cries and tears that have gone up to God from these His blessing and dying children? Who can imagine the shuddering with which they lie down at night or go out at day? Every bush is a murderer. Every eye burns coldly and hellishly upon them. Every step they take is into destruction. Twenty-seven hundred bodies left of life by open assassination in a single State, in the circuit of this year of grace—the year which many believed and yet believe to be prophesied by Daniel and John as the dawn of the millennium! Twenty-seven hundred souls sent to cry to God against the famous healing of America's sore, the infamous treachery of America's rulers! Well may General Sheridan declare that he prefers a residence in hell to one in Texas; for hell has no such slaughter of holy and harmless men and women to add to its cruelty and curse. Impious as are its fiends, they are, at least, powerless against the innocent.

Instantly should Congress proceed to impeach and remove the President. For till he is removed no loyal life is safe in Texas. Loyal lives perish by the hundreds every month, by scores every day. Hamilton and Sheridan could make that land as peaceful as Connecticut in ninety days. Loyal men for rulers, and Government soldiers to uphold them, would soon scatter all these murderers. Why is not Sheridan there? Why does Johnson say he will not interfere again in Southern affairs except to quell riots? and then, as we have seen, he only interposes to suppress the more effectually the victims of the rioters, and quells the riot by establishing decrees as law. Why is he allowed to thus defy the Constitution, which declares, by an amendment he has himself endorsed, that freedom shall be guaranteed to the emancipated? Simply because he despises Congress. It may pass bills over his veto; it cannot execute them. It may send committees of examination; it cannot send soldiers for the arrest and punishment of the murderers. It may talk; he acts. Until it acts, too, and puts its foot on his neck, murder stalks red-handed through all the South. Congress must cease to prate, and begin to gird up its loins for the greatest work ever set it to do. It cannot turn from it without meeting greater destruction. The voice of our brothers' blood cries to us from the ground: how multitudinous, how awful that will!

Will the nation hear it, and obey the will of God in putting its power into hands that will deceive life and liberty to all its inhabitants? "How long, O Lord, how long?" these perishing millions of our brethren cry. Shall we judge that they may as well be produced in portions of our own country as where they now are. Europe has borrowed from Asia, and naturalized the production of silk, immensely cheapening the staple thereby; we believe America might and should do likewise. As to wool and flax, if our manufactures were as extensive and as mature as are those of the British Isles, we should incline to favor the admission of these staples free; but, in the actual condition, we hold it best for all concerned that the production of staples as well as fabrics should be stimulated by protective duties. Let us double our number of sheep and treble our woolen mills, and then we may fairly consider the policy of reducing the duties on wool and woollens. And so of flax and linen.

As to those who cry out against the pending Tariff bill that it is a bill of abominations—that it is calculated to destroy our foreign commerce—that it is a contrivance to enrich a few great manufacturers—to establish or perpetuate monopolies, etc.—we answer, more resolutely than they deserve, that these same objections were made, in almost identical language, to the tariffs of 1823, 1842, and 1857. Now, then, if those tariffs destroyed foreign commerce, built up monopolies, etc., etc., then this will probably do the same; for it is based on the same principle, operates by similar

This Louisiana bill provides that the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint for one year a Governor for the State, a man of thoroughly loyal antecedents and character, whose skirts are entirely free of any Rebel affiliations, and that in the same way and under the same conditions, a Provisional Council of nine members shall forthwith be appointed for the temporary government of the State, including the appointment of subordinate officers, etc., all of whom are to be subject to the iron-clad oath; that on the first Tuesday in June next, under said provisional government, there shall be an election for a regular Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Legislature; that male citizens of all colors, above the age of twenty-one, thoroughly loyal, and free from any taint of the Rebellion, shall have the right to vote, and "none others;" that in October next a convention of loyal men shall be elected to form a new State constitution; that the State, meantime, shall be placed under the additional protection of a military commander, with sufficient force to maintain order, and that all the proceedings of this provisional and regular State Government and convention shall be subject to the approval of Congress from the first to the last step required for the restoration of the State to full fellowship in the Union. This bill, therefore, so far as Louisiana is concerned, utterly overthrows and supersedes the State establishment set up and recognized by President Johnson, and may thus be considered as putting to him the alternative of an absolute surrender of his policy or the hazards of those ulterior measures—impeachment and removal—suggested by Mr. Banks.

Having disposed of this bill, the House yesterday resumed the consideration of, and passed, by the equally decisive vote of 109 to 55, the bill of Mr. Stevens, from the Reconstruction Committee, providing temporarily for the division of the ten excluded Rebel States into five military districts, and the revival of martial law therein, each district to be under a military commander, and all to be subject to the general supervision and control of General Grant. The objects contemplated are—the maintenance of law and order, the protection of the loyal Southern whites and emancipated blacks in the States concerned, until new civil governments even be established by Congress. In support of this measure Mr. Allison, of Iowa, said that the House had repudiated (in the Louisiana bill) the pretended State Governments set up in the South by the President; that if Congress did not now place the control of those States in the hands of loyal men, it would be derelict in its duties and untrue to its pledges; that he did not believe the President would yield one hat's breadth of his position. His plan was to place Rebels in the control of those States. Nor were military governments a new thing to them. They had been under martial law from the collapse of the Rebellion to the 1st of August, 1866, and from that day to this it has been a sad period for the Union people of the South. Such was the general drift of this discussion on the Republican side, their so-called conservatives, as the debate progressed, gradually giving way.

The Louisiana bill, then, will be the test. The vote of the House indicates a nearly unbroken front of the Republicans in the Senate upon it. They have no previous questions in that body, but with four or five days the debate may be exhausted, the minority being only ten or fifteen men. The bill may thus be passed in time to give the President his ten days for consideration within the prescribed limits of this Congress. Should the measure thus come before him he must sign it, veto it, or, as with the Territorial Suffrage bill, by holding it beyond his ten days' limit, permit it to become a law without his signature. We guess that the exception and "the true intent and meaning of the bill" is a veto, which, as it will be equivalent to a reaffirmation of his purpose to adhere to his policy, will inevitably bring upon him the execrations of the nation, and the complete abandonment of his policy and his surrender to and co-operation with the policy of Congress, or his impeachment and removal from office, is the alternative now presented to Mr. Johnson. The vote upon this Louisiana bill extinguishes the half-way measures suggested by Messrs. Banks, Bingham, and Raymond. Nor is there any other course left to Congress in declaring and assuming its constitutional rights and powers but to maintain them to the last extremity. The duty and the policy of Congress upon this question of jurisdiction are as clear as its rights. It was not the "poundage and tonnage" that arrayed the Long Parliament against Charles the First, but it was the great question of executive usurpations, the exclusive power of Parliament. Upon that issue the maintenance of our Constitution and its delegated powers depend—on the surrender, resignation, or removal of our present Executive; and upon this issue hangs for some time longer the cohesion or the speedy disintegration of the party now in power.

The Tariff.

We have steadily refused to meddle with the questions of detail involved in the pending Tariff bill. Whether this article should be ten per cent. lower or higher is a matter which the appropriate committees, after hearing both sides, can decide much better than we could. As a general rule, we favor the introduction of bulky raw materials, like coal, ores, grain, etc., at very low rates, while imposing high duties on manufactures generally. We would impose no duties, save for revenue, on coffee, spices, and other products of climates essentially different from ours; we would levy far higher duties on teas, silks, etc., because we judge that they may as well be produced in portions of our own country as where they now are. Europe has borrowed from Asia, and naturalized the production of silk, immensely cheapening the staple thereby; we believe America might and should do likewise.

As to wool and flax, if our manufactures were as extensive and as mature as are those of the British Isles, we should incline to favor the admission of these staples free; but, in the actual condition, we hold it best for all concerned that the production of staples as well as fabrics should be stimulated by protective duties. Let us double our number of sheep and treble our woolen mills, and then we may fairly consider the policy of reducing the duties on wool and woollens. And so of flax and linen.

The Drift of Congress—The Impeachment Party Gaining Ground.

The heavy vote—113 against 48—by which the bill of Mr. Eliot for the reconstruction of Louisiana has passed the House of Representatives, is very significant; for it means nothing less than this—that all the State Governments set up by President Johnson without authority from Congress are to be pulled down, and that every State concerned is to be reconstructed from the beginning.

means, and contemplates the same ends, with each and all of them. Again we entreat Congress to act on the tariff question—to act decisively and promptly. We cannot each be exactly pleased with all the details of such a measure, and it is not essential that we should be. We shall be satisfied with such a tariff as a majority of either House shall consider best adapted to subserve and promote the welfare of the whole American people.

The London "Times," the President, and the Telegraph.

From the World.

Just about a month ago the London agent of the Associated Press informed us, at a considerable expense, that a Washington letter in the London Times of January 10 reported a "violent assault made by President Johnson upon Congress for its usurpation." We doubted the accuracy of this information at the time, for nothing has been more striking in the American letters of Mr. Jennings, the actual correspondent of the Times in this country, than the writer's moderation of temper, calmness of judgment, and sustained determination to preserve, as far as in him lies, a becoming and statesmanlike impartiality of tone in describing the events and passing judgment upon the men of the present crisis.

Our regular mails have now brought to us Mr. Jennings' letter of January 10. It was on Tuesday published in these columns, and our readers will agree with us that nothing could have been more unjust or unfounded than the account given of it by the agent of the Associated Press.

In his conversation with Mr. Jennings, President Johnson stated the points at issue between Congress and himself not only with great lucidity of expression, but with singular freedom from heat or passion. We doubt whether even the Tribune will attempt to deny either that the Congressional majority with which the President has had to contend represents a real minority of the inhabitants of the United States, or that Messrs. Sumner and Stevens have practically hung aside the Constitution as their chart in the direction of the national policy. The Tribune and its radical friends may think it to be God's will that a minority should coerce a majority by the use of machinery intended for very different purposes, and that the present inspiration of Stevens and Sumner should supplant the forbidden scripture of the Constitution. But "foreign nations and the future age" will, perhaps, be less emphatic on these points. Congress and the President are "making history;" and, whatever may be said or done in the fever of the passing hour, it is certain that no President will be branded as a "traitor" in history who stands where President Johnson puts himself—upon the written word of the Constitution, and in protest against the despotism of a minority.

The Louisiana Reconstruction Bill.

From the Times.

The new-born hope of reconciliation between Congress and the President has been summarily extinguished. By the passage of Mr. Eliot's bill for reconstructing the civil Government of Louisiana, the House has indicated its aversion to all overtures for peace with the Executive, and all plans of compromise as between his own will and the wishes of the Southern people. It has declared its purpose to set aside the Constitutional amendment, and to substitute for a mild measure of restoration harsh and sweeping measures of reconstruction. It has decided that the States which have rejected the amendment shall not have an opportunity of reconsidering their verdict, and that the efforts of Southern Governors to induce the acceptance of modified terms shall be ignored as of no significance whatever. The vote by which all this has been accomplished forbids expectations of improvement. A close vote may be revised and reversed, but 113 yeas and 48 nays are figures that leave no chance of change.

Mr. Eliot's bill—embodying the conclusion arrived at by the majority of the New Orleans Investigating Committee—sweeps away the existing Government of Louisiana as a usurpation and a fraud, removes all office-holders, from the Governor downwards, scatters the Legislature with Cromwellian brusqueness, and deals with the State precisely as though it were just made subject to the authority of the National Government. The point of contention raised by Mr. Stevens has been avoided by Mr. Eliot. He leads no countenance to the territorializing theory, and indulges in no talk about the relative rights of conquerors and conquered. He simply assumes the unlawfulness and insufficiency of the existing governmental machinery of the State; and starting afresh from the fact that the Rebellion left the State destitute of government, he provides for its reorganization on the extreme radical basis.

The President is charged, in conjunction with the Senate, with the appointment of a Provisional Governor and a Provisional Council of nine persons—only those being appointed who can take the test oath. In June the loyal citizens, exclusively, will elect a Governor, State officers, and members of the Legislature; and in October the same electors will choose delegates to a Convention to form a State Constitution: both elections to be held under regulations made by the Secretary of War, and the test oath to be throughout the standard of qualification, whether of electors or of persons elected. Meanwhile a military commander will be appointed to co-operate with the Provisional Governor, and exercise a wide discretionary authority for the maintenance of peace, and the enforcement of laws and orders growing out of the provisional régime. This provision of the bill contrasts favorably with Mr. Stevens' scheme of military government. That would make the soldier supreme—the civilian subordinate. Mr. Eliot recognizes the military power only as an auxiliary, to be employed if the necessity arises.

The harshness of the measure is apparent in its wholesale proscription and disfranchisement of the whole of the white population of the State. The North Carolina scheme, introduced some time ago, at the instance of ex-Governor Holden, and others, was much more conciliatory in this regard. The only disability it imposed applied to the offices and the membership of the projected Convention, and its only injustice consisted in its failure to enfranchise the colored people. Mr. Eliot's bill is less liberal and less wise. It is proscriptive after the manner of Tennessee, and will give rise to the heart-burning, the angry controversies, the bitter, bloody strife which prevail in Tennessee to this hour. It confers the franchise upon the negroes, universally, while it disfranchises nearly the entire white population. Practically, therefore, the reorganization of Louisiana will be entrusted to its freedmen; they, and they alone, will have the election of legislators, and through the Convention the framing of the new Constitution; the resi-

dent whites being at their mercy in all things political. No gift of prophecy is needed to foretell the consequences of this policy. It is irritating and dangerous to the last degree, and the effect upon the property and business interests of the State will be most disastrous. May we not hope that, in this respect, the Senate will amend the bill? We urge amendment, not in behalf of prominent Rebels, for we would have them permanently excluded from all offices of honor and emolument—not with the view of injuring the loyal blacks, for if the alternative be the unqualified exclusion of the universal disfranchisement of the freedmen, we prefer the latter. But we are convinced that a measure of amnesty wide enough to include that great body of citizens who, though neither promoters nor leaders of the Rebellion, were nevertheless implicated in it, would be eminently beneficial. With the freedmen enfranchised, there could be no danger from Rebel influences; while the exclusion of the great majority of white citizens from all participation in the Government will be a source of endless difficulty and danger.

It is to be regretted, too, that the result aimed at—the reorganization of civil government on a loyal foundation—is, under Mr. Eliot's plan, remote. By postponing the holding of the State Convention until October, the final judgment of Congress upon the claim of the State to representation is put off until the summer of 1868. Two years, in effect, will be consumed in maturing the process of reconstruction, and during that long interval the State will be in condition of political chaos. The opposition allege that the object is to exclude the State from participation in the next Presidential election. Be the object what it may, this will undoubtedly be the consequence of the measure adopted by the House.

And, after all, the plan is experimental. It lays down nothing like a general system under which the reconstruction of the entire South might proceed simultaneously. Upon one point, indeed, it affirms a principle which, once begun, must be applied to every Southern State. We refer to its repudiation and overthrow of existing State organizations, to the undoing, in fact, of all that the President has done, and all that has been done under or in consequence of his action. The position of Louisiana is not exceptional. And after legislating its Government and Constitution out of existence, the same rule must be extended to all other excluded States. This part of the programme may be a necessity. Assuredly, however, the existing condition of affairs in the South admitted of some general plan, beginning at the beginning, as Mr. Eliot proposes, but embracing the whole of the excluded States within its provisions. We might then have had early and complete reconstruction, instead of an isolated experiment and an indefinite delay.

We submit that the position of the reconstruction question, as shown by Mr. Eliot's bill, is not creditable to the sagacity of the Republican majority in Congress. A grander opportunity for the exercise of statesmanship this generation will never know. Yet at the expiration of the second session after the war, we are but at the threshold of reconstruction, with a policy that is confessedly experimental. At this rate of progress, the time required by Union politicians for the adjustment of the relations between the national Government and the States lately in rebellion will be nearly equal to the time occupied by the Union armies in conquering the Rebels. Our statesmen are evidently not quite up to the mark of our soldiers.

DRY GOODS.

PRICE & WOOD.

N. W. Corner EIGHTH and FILBERT.

Have just opened from New York auction sales, and other sources, several lots of GOODS BELOW GOLD prices. 10 dozen Linen Huckaback Towels, 12 1/2c. Large size Huckaback Towels, 25, 30, and 40c. Large size South Island Towels, 10c. 100 dozen Linen Doilies, at \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, and \$2.00 per dozen. (An assortment of Linen Napkins, \$2.25 up to \$6 per dozen. Linen Bird-Eye for Children's Aprons, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80c. Scotch Paper by the piece, very cheap. 100 dozen Huckaback Towelling, 31, 35, and 40c. very fine quality. 100 Piece-Loom Table Linens, 65c. per yard. 74 Piece-Loom Table Linens, 65c. per yard. 84 Table Linens, a job lot, very heavy, \$1.25 per yard. Linen Table Cloths, 2 1/2 yards long, \$2.00. A large assortment Shaving Linens. Heavy Household Linens.

WHITE GOODS—WHITE GOODS.

Just opened, 100 pieces Soft-Finish Cambrics, from 25c. up to 50c. per yard, the balance of an importer's stock, which was bought at gold prices. Several lots of White Brilliantos, 25, 28, 31, 37 1/2, and 50 cents. Nainsook Muslins, 25, 28, 31, 37 1/2, and 50 cents—very cheap. 250 pieces Satinick Plain Muslins, handsome large Pieces, very cheap. White Marcellites and Piques, 57 1/2, 60c. up to \$1.25 per yard. Several lots of Victoria Lawns, very cheap. Several lots of Ladies' Linen Hdk's to sell, 12 1/2, 15, 18, 25, and 30c. Gents' Hdk's, 25, 28, 31, 37 1/2, 45, and 50c. Several lots of Gents' Colored Border Hdk's, very cheap. Ladies' Hemstitch Hdk's. Ladies' Huckaback Towels, 27 1/2, 41, 50, and 60c. Lace Border Hdk's, 31c. A large assortment of Hamburg Edgings, Insertings, Frountings, a cheap lot of Dimity Bands, &c., &c.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

REGISTERS NOTICE.—TO ALL CREDITORS, Legates, and other persons interested. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, named persons do, on the dates annexed to their names, the persons deceased, and the names of the persons whose names are undermentioned in the office of the Register for the Probate of Wills and Granting Letters of Administration in and for the City and County of Philadelphia, and that the same will be presented to the Orphans' Court of said City and County for confirmation and allowance, on the 3rd day of FEBRUARY next at 10 o'clock in the morning, at the County Court House in said City.

Dec. 28, John H. Wader, Administrator of ANN WARDER, deceased.

" 28, Lucretia Thomas, Executrix of CHARLES H. THOMAS, deceased.

" 28, James H. Campbell, Executor of ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, deceased.

" 29, Emory B. Warriner, Administrator of REUBEN HARRIS, deceased.

" 29, Andrew B. Warriner, Executor of MARY TILDA FARRIS, deceased.

" 29, Franklin D. Warriner, Administrator of SARAH DITZ, deceased.

" 31, James Ross and James McFarland, Executors of WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN, deceased.

1867. Jan. 2, Clinton H. Warriner, Administrator of J. LINDSAY CRAIG, deceased.

" 2, John Ward Jr. and Charles Ward, Executors of JAMES WARD, deceased.

" 2, Patrick Seco, Administrator of RICHARD DICKSON, deceased.

" 3, Mary Hughes, Administratrix of JOHN C. HUGHES, deceased.

" Moses Baker, Executor of LYMAN BAKER, deceased.

" 7, Emma B. Warriner, Administrator of JOHN McLELLAN, deceased.

" 8, Sarah Graham et al, Executors of THOMAS GRAHAM, deceased.

" 8, Henry J. Warriner and Edward Shippen, Executors of ELIZABETH B. GIBSON, deceased.

" 9, Lewis W. Warriner, Administratrix of ZENAS B. WELLS, deceased.

" 9, George W. Warriner, Executor of GEORGE GILLESPIE, deceased.

" 9, Edward Warriner, Administrator of CATHARINE WELLS, deceased.

" 9, E. H. Price, Trustee of CATHARINE ANN GIBSON, under the will of WILLIAM McLAUGHL